

Agency Purpose

The Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) provides hands-on environmental stewardship training and service-learning opportunities to youth and young adults (ages 15-25), while completing priority and cost-effective natural resource management and emergency response work. MCC benefits both the training and development needs of young people and the natural resources of Minnesota.

2003 Minnesota Session Laws - Chapter 128, Section 6 and Section 35 [84.991]

Core Functions

- ⇒ **Public Service** – MCC serves primarily governmental, educational, and non-profit organizations for the common good.
- ⇒ **Youth and Young Adults** – MCC provides training and work opportunities to youth and young adults to create positive outcomes for the communities of Minnesota and their natural resources.
- ⇒ **Professional Development** – Corps members receive intensive safety and skills training, preparing them to serve as the state's future natural resources professionals. Developing a strong work and stewardship ethic is the foundation of the conservation corps philosophy.
- ⇒ **Environmental Impact** – The legacy of MCC is that it enables positive improvements to our environment, our communities, and our corps members through a commitment to environmental service.

Operations

- ⇒ The MCC Summer Youth Residential Program operates for eight weeks each summer out of a base camp at St. Croix State Park, sending crews of youth (ages 15-18) throughout the state to perform labor-intensive natural resources work on public land.
- ⇒ The MCC Young Adult Program operates year-round by placing crews of young adults (ages 18-25) in communities throughout the state to perform both labor-intensive and highly technical natural resources work on public land, including emergency response to natural disasters.

Budget

The MCC consistently spends more than 85% of its funding directly for youth and young adult programs and strives to ensure exceptional experiences for program participants. Programs are also designed to provide direct benefits to communities and their natural resources.

As a nonprofit organization, the MCC generates nearly 55% of its operating funds from fees charged for conservation services. State funds are used for priority projects throughout the state and to leverage resources from many organizations. State funds are also used to match the federal AmeriCorps annual grant (totaling \$470,000 in FY 2007). The state matching requirement for the AmeriCorps grant is expected to double in the coming biennium (from a 25% to a 50% matching requirement).

Future Opportunities

- ◆ partnering with agencies involved in the Clean Water Legacy Initiative
- ◆ creating "specialized crews" of corps members with knowledge and skills in specific areas of natural resources management
- ◆ determining funding sources and curricula for expanded youth programs

At A Glance

Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) was formed in 1981, based on the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) model of the 1930s. MCC is now an entrepreneurial and mission driven nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

During the course of a program year, MCC:

- ◆ Leads over 200 program participants
- ◆ Serves over 125 different project sponsors, including the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and The Nature Conservancy
- ◆ Completes 110,000 hours of natural resource projects, of which 10,600 hours are devoted to skill-building and personal development training to participants
- ◆ Offers emergency response and recovery to Minnesota communities impacted by disaster

FY 2007 Projected Revenue Summary:

Fee-For Service (55%)	1,643,000
Natural Resources Fund (15%)	490,000
State General Fund (12%)	350,000
Federal AmeriCorps Grant (16%)	470,000
Other (2%)	49,000
Total	3,002,000

Contact

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2008-09
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
General					
Current Appropriation	350	350	350	350	700
Forecast Base	350	350	350	350	700
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2006-07					0%
Natural Resources					
Current Appropriation	490	490	490	490	980
Forecast Base	490	490	490	490	980
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2006-07					0%
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
General	350	350	350	350	700
Natural Resources	490	490	490	490	980
Total	840	840	840	840	1,680
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Local Assistance	840	840	840	840	1,680
Total	840	840	840	840	1,680
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Minn Conservation Corps	840	840	840	840	1,680
Total	840	840	840	840	1,680